

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of December 16, 2003.

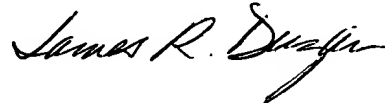
Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 6,084,288

Claims 1 through 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7 through 28 of U.S. Patent 6,084,288. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

Applicants submit that claims 1 through 22 are clearly allowable.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 22 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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